

Serial No. **09/735,547**

Docket No. **HI-0024**

Amdt. dated June 20, 2006

Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2006

REMARKS

By the present response, Applicant has canceled claim 15 without disclaimer. Further, Applicant has amended claims 8-11, 14, 16, 17 and 27 to further clarify the invention. Claims 1-14, 16-23 and 27-31 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,978,659 (Kim) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,890,056 (Garner et al.). Claims 9, 27-29 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Garner et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,83 (Bradley). Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Bradley. Claim 30 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Garner et al. and Bradley and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,112,070 (Katsuyama et al.). Claims 15-23 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-7 and indicating that claims 10-13 and 15-23 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Garner et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that this claim has been amended with subject matter of claim 15, deemed allowable by the Examiner. Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over the cited references at least for these reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of claim 8 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

Claims 9, 27-29 and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Garner et al. and further in view of Bradley. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Regarding claim 27, applicant submits that this claim has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 15 deemed allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over the cited references at least for these reasons.

Regarding claims 9, 28, 29 and 31, Applicant submits that these claims are dependent on one of independent claims 8 and 27 and, therefore, are patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding these independent claims.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 9, 27-29 and 31 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Bradley. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that this claim has been amended with the subject matter of claim 15 deemed allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable over the cited references at least for these reasons.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of claim 14 of the present application. Applicant respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

Claim 30 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Garner et al., Bradley and Katsuyama et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection

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and submits that this claim is dependent on independent claim 27 and, therefore, is patentable at least for the same reasons noted previously regarding this independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of claim 30 of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn and that this claim be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-14, 16-23 and 27-31 are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Frederick D. Bailey, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Frederick D. Bailey
Registration No. 42,282

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200
(703) 766-3701 DYK/FDB:tlg

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Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610